

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday 18th February 1999 7:15 for 7:45

Medical Research Council Cancer Trials Office,
5 Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge

Man's Best Friend is Dog, Dog's Best Friend is a Statistician

Ken Lakhani

Centre for Preventive Medicine,
Animal Health Trust, Newmarket

Abstract: Many heritable conditions in pedigree dog breeds (deafness, blindness, hip dysplasia) are major health problems - painful and incurable. The British Veterinary Association (BVA) supports control schemes: the animals are clinically monitored and their health status recorded. Merging these data with the Kennel Club pedigree database provide a composite research database containing the animal's identity, date of birth, sex, various other attributes and the clinical condition status, as well as similar data for its parents. The talk will describe research (jointly with James Wood, AHT) into the prevalence of some major conditions in particular breeds, the relationship between the prevalence in offspring and parents, and to what extent the condition can be controlled by sensible breeding policies.

Speaker: Ken Lakhani became a Barrister (1960) but changed careers by joining the Nature Conservancy (NC). NERC absorbed NC in 1965; in 1973, the research wing of NC became the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE). Ken served the biometrical needs of ITE's Monks Wood Exptl. Station for 20 years, retired in 1994, and since then has been the Statistical Consultant for Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, with funding from The Kennel Club. After a lifetime in ecology, concerned mainly with the *survival* of POPULATIONS, the focus is now on the *health* of population MEMBERS.

Directions: Shaftesbury Road is off Brooklands Avenue (on the left if you approach from the railway station end). Number 5 is on the left of Shaftesbury Road; it is the house immediately before the junction with Fitzwilliam Road. There is very little on-site parking but it should be possible to park on the street. Access to the building may be difficult after 7:45.

Next Meetings:

18th March – Alistair Murray (Br.Antarctic Survey) on 'A Biometrician at Sea – Problems in Antarctic Marine Ecology'.
May – Nick Goldman (Genetics) on 'Hidden Markov Models of Protein Structure and Protein Sequence Evolution'.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 1998-9 session. Cheques should be made payable to Margaret Corbett and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;

telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk